

Cochise-Santa Cruz Focus Area

The Cochise-Santa Cruz Focus Area is comprised of Cochise and Santa Cruz counties. Private lands and State Trust Lands dominate the focus area, which also includes the Fort Huachuca U.S. Army Installation, owned by the U.S. Armed Forces. Incorporated communities within Cochise County are: Wilcox, Tombstone, Benson, Huachuca City, Sierra Vista, and Bisbee. Patagonia and Nogales are two incorporated communities in Santa Cruz County.

Some of the larger communities within the study area include:

- City of Show Low: near the SR 61 / SR 77 junction
- City of St. Johns: located at the junction of SR 61 and US 191
- Town of Eager: adjacent SR 260
- Town of Pinetop-Lakeside: adjacent to SR 260
- Town of Snowflake: located at the junction of SR 77 and SR 277
- Town of Springerville: adjacent to US 60
- Town of Taylor: adjacent to SR 77
- Town of Pima; near SR 70
- Town of Thatcher; near SR 70
- City of Safford; near SR 70
- Town of Clifton; near SR 75
- Town of Duncan; near SR 75
- City of Benson; adjacent to I-10
- City of Wilcox; adjacent to SR 186
- City of Douglas; adjacent to SR 80
- City of Bisbee; adjacent to SR 80
- Town of Tombstone; adjacent to SR 80
- Town of Huachuca City; adjacent to SR 90
- City of Sierra Vista; adjacent to SR 90
- Town of Patagonia; adjacent to SR 82
- City of Nogales; adjacent to SR 82

2.3.4 Public Land Management Studies

Arizona totals nearly 114,000 square miles, or about 73 million acres. Approximately one third of the state is public land managed by the federal government. The majority of this public land is managed by two agencies, the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service. Military reservations managed by the Department of Defense (DOD) constitute the majority of the remaining federally managed lands. Federally managed public lands also include National Parks and Monuments managed by the National Park Service (NPS), National Wildlife Refuges managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS),

and lakes and waterways managed by the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE).

Arizona's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages approximately 12.2 million acres of public land. To manage this land the Bureau has ten stand alone land use plans including six Resource Management Plans (RMPs), three land use plan amendments and one Management Framework Plan (MFP). Within these land use plans BLM Arizona manages national monuments, national conservation area, national historic trails, and wilderness areas.

The Forest Service is in the process of revising its land management plans in response to a ruling in 2007 ordering the Forest Service to discontinue use of the 2005 Planning Rule to amend or revise land management plans. The Forest Service published a new 2008 planning rule which increases public collaboration, is more responsive to changing conditions, and reinforces existing environmental protections for wildlife, water and other resources.

The following describes the public land management studies within each of the three focus areas of the Eastern Arizona Regional Framework Study.

Mogollon Rim Focus Area

The Dry Lake Wind Project is a proposal for wind turbines, access roads, collector lines, a substation and operating facility to be constructed on public lands managed by the BLM in Navajo County 10 miles north west of the town of Snowflake. At this time the project has an unsigned Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and a supporting Environment Assessment (EA) and is in the public review and comment stage.

The Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests in Navajo and Apache counties, total two million acres along the Mogollon Rim. The management concerns on the Apache-Sitgreaves include the health and restoration of the watersheds, sustaining the Forests' ecosystems, reducing the dangers associated with wildfire, and maintaining the National Forest road system. Currently, the Forest Service is undergoing a revision of the existing Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests Plan.

Copper Country Focus Area

BLM Arizona's Gila Box Management Plan is a plan to manage the 23,000-acre Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area (NCA) located 20 miles northeast of Safford in Graham and Greenlee Counties. Numerous prehistoric and historical structures, including cliff dwellings and historic homesteads, as well as Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep and over 200 species of birds are important resources also addressed in this management plan.

BLM Arizona's Safford District Resource Management Plan manages over 1,400,000 acres of public land in six counties including Graham and Greenlee. Wilderness areas managed under this plan within the Copper Country Focus Area include North Santa Teresa, Fishhooks, Redfield Canyon, and Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness Areas. The Safford District management emphasis is on livestock grazing, mining, wildlife habitat, recreation, watershed and land and realty actions.

The Coronado National Forest covers 1,780,000 acres of southwestern New Mexico and southeastern Arizona, including Graham and Greenlee Counties. There are twelve distinct mountain ranges, or "sky islands, within the Coronado National Forest that support

biologically diverse plant and animal communities. Currently, the Coronado National Forest is undergoing a revision of its forest plan.

Cochise-Santa Cruz Focus Area

BLM Arizona's San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area planning area contains nearly 57,000 acres of public land in Cochise County, just 6 miles west of Sierra Vista. The riparian area, where 40 miles of the upper San Pedro River meanders through the Chihuahuan and Sonoran Deserts, was designated as a Riparian National Conservation Area in 1988. Considered one of the most important riparian areas in the United States, the purpose of this NCA designation is to protect sensitive and scarce riparian-related values. Important sites in this NCA include the remains of the Spanish Presidio Santa Cruz de Terranante as well as the ruins of the old mining town of Fairbank.

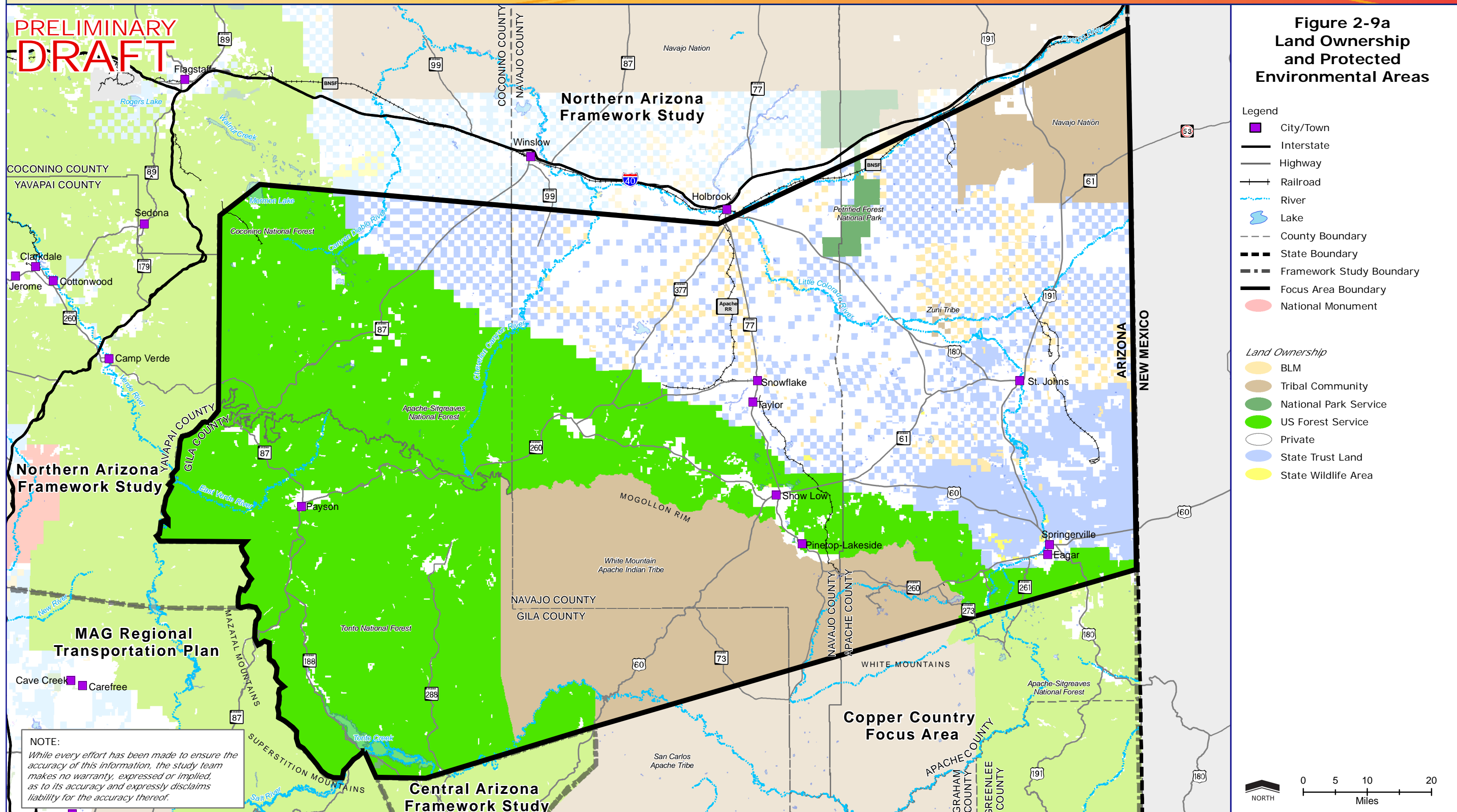
BLM Arizona's Las Cienegas Resource Management Plan is a plan for managing 42,000 acres of public land that extends into Santa Cruz County. Significant resources within the NCA include habitat for several endangered species, a site on the National Registry of Historic Places, two proposed wild and scenic river segments, as well as five of the rarest habitat types in the Southwest: cienegas, cottonwood-willow riparian areas, sacaton grasslands, mesquite bosques, and semidesert grasslands.

BLM Arizona's Safford District Resource Management Plan manages over 1,400,000 acres of public land in six counties including Cochise County. Wilderness areas managed under this plan within the Cochise-Santa Cruz Focus Area include Needles Eye, Dos Cabezas Mountains and Peloncillo Mountains Wilderness Areas and Baker Canyon Wilderness Study Area. The Safford District management emphasis is on livestock grazing, mining, wildlife habitat, recreation, watershed and land and realty actions.

The Coronado National Forest covers 1,780,000 acres of southwestern New Mexico and southeastern Arizona, including Santa Cruz and Cochise Counties. There are twelve distinct mountain ranges, or "sky islands", within the Coronado National Forest that support plant and animal communities described as among the most biologically diverse found on the planet (Mittermeier et al 2004). Currently, the Coronado National Forest is undergoing a revision of its forest plan.



Regional Framework Study: Eastern Arizona, Mogollon Rim Focus Area



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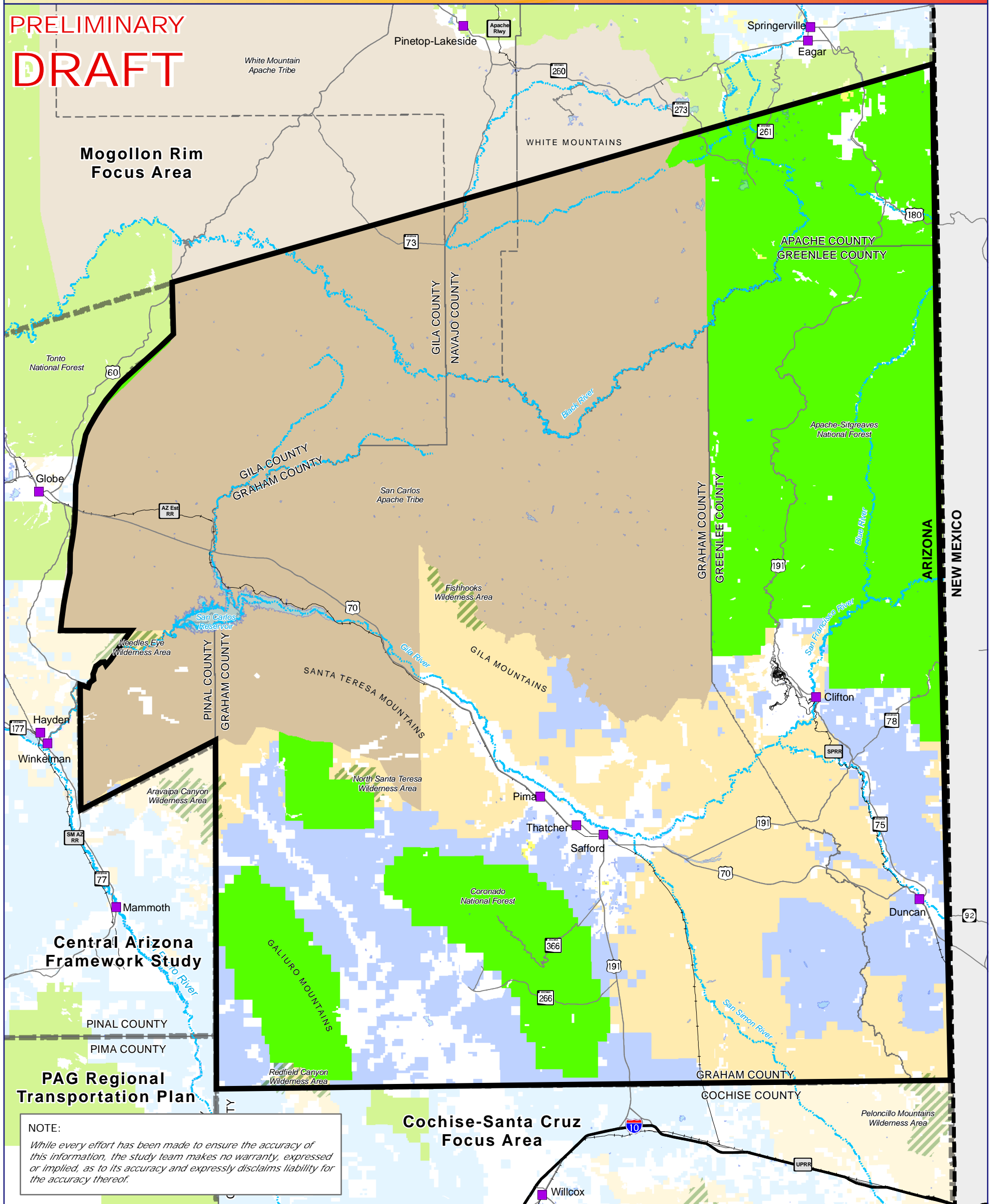
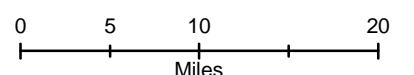
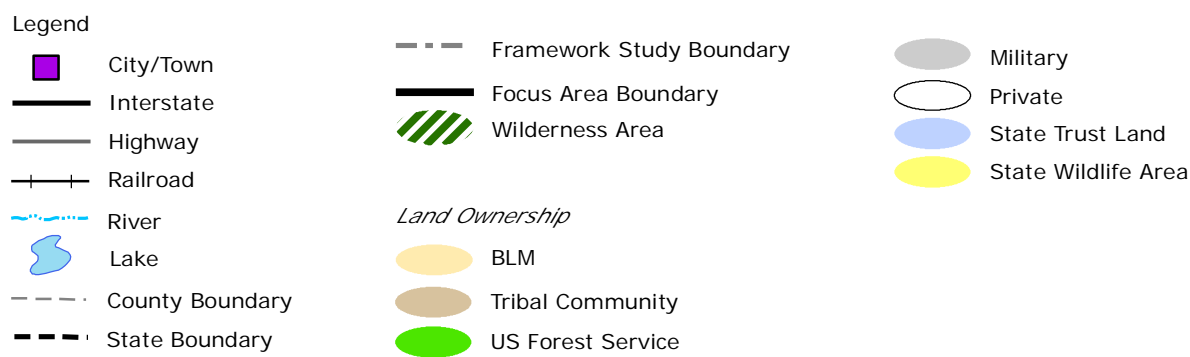


Figure 2-9b Land Ownership and Protected Environmental Areas





Regional Framework Study: Eastern Arizona, Cochise-Santa Cruz Focus Area

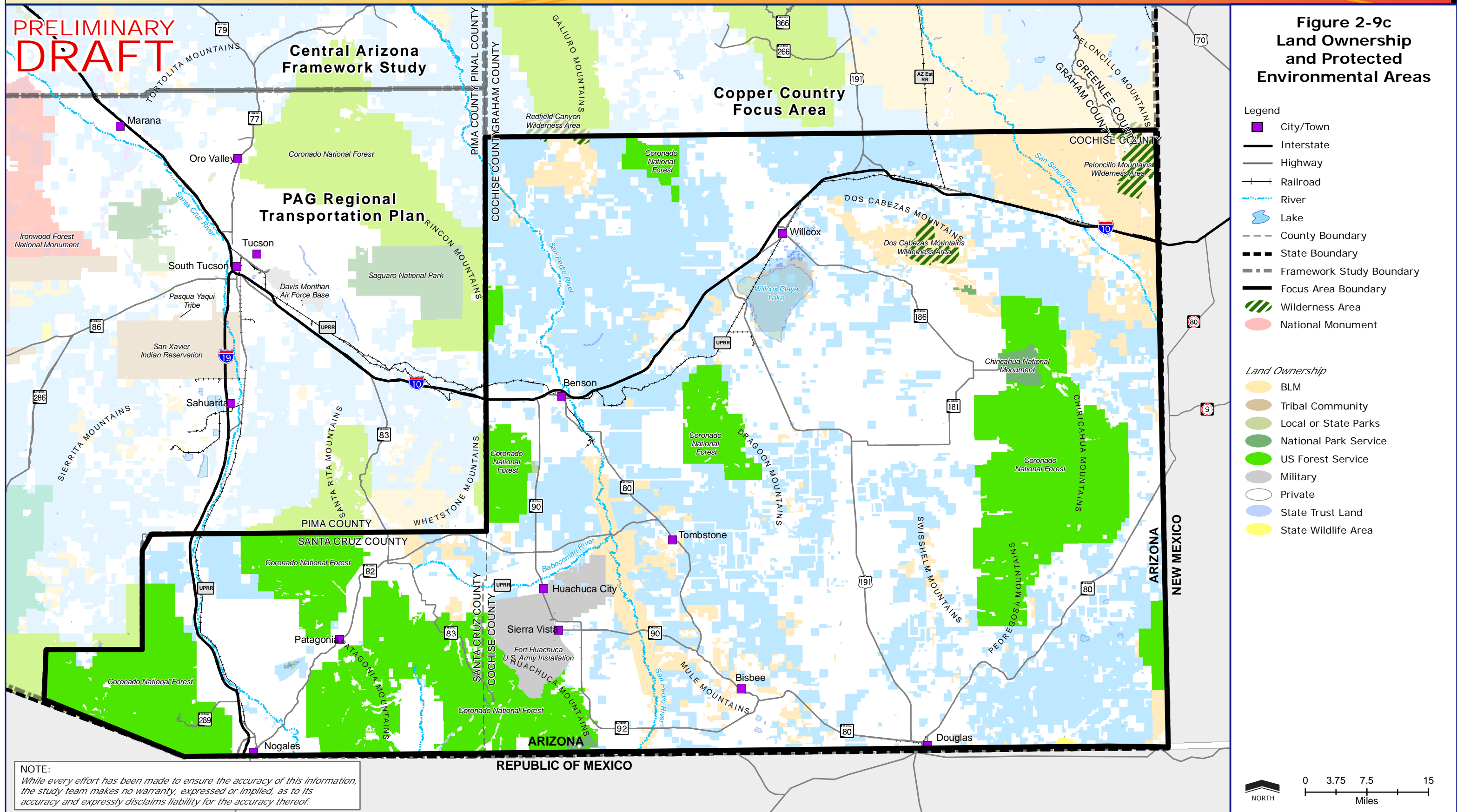


Table 2-21 below show land ownership within each Focus Area. The Mogollon Rim Focus Area encompasses about 7,431,635 million acres, extending through the southern portions of Navajo and Apache counties and the eastern portion of Gila County. The Copper Country Focus Area encompasses about 5,743,386 million acres, consisting mostly of tribal and Forest Service lands. The Cochise-Santa Cruz Focus Area encompasses approximately 4,745,183 million acres.

**Table 2-21 – Land Distribution within the
 Eastern Arizona Regional Framework Study**

Owner / Management Agency	Acreage	Percentage within Profile Area
Mogollon Rim Focus Area		
Bureau of Land Management	164,762	2.22%
American Indian Reservation	1,472,628	19.82%
National Parks Service	39,887	0.54%
Private lands (including incorporated communities)	1,827,883	24.6%
State Trust lands (Arizona State Land Department)	971,020	13.07%
U.S. Forest Service	2,946,863	39.65%
Other	8,592	0.12%
TOTAL	7,431,635	100.00%
Copper County Focus Area		
Bureau of Land Management	896,226	15.6%
American Indian Reservation	2,376,676	41.38%
Private lands (including incorporated communities)	398,195	6.93%
State Trust lands (Arizona State Land Department)	665,544	11.59%
U.S. Forest Service	1,404,224	24.45%
Military	440	0.01%
Other	2,081	0.04%
TOTAL	5,743,386	100.00%
Cochise-Santa Cruz Focus Area		
Bureau of Land Management	400,347	8.44%
State Parks	600	0.01%
National Parks Service	17,141	0.36%
Private lands (including incorporated communities)	1,879,325	39.60%
State Trust lands (Arizona State Land Department)	1,433,547	30.21%
State Wildlife Areas	1,800	0.04%
U.S. Forest Service	901,851	19.01%
Military	107,473	2.26%
Other	3,099	0.07%
TOTAL	4,745,183	100.00%

SOURCE: Arizona State Land Department, 2007